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GBSC THEME

"To Convince the Unconvinced to be Convinced...through Education, Missions and Fellowship,"

Matthew 28:19-20

125th Annual Session a Success

By Rev. Dr. Linda W. Bryan
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention held its 125th Annual Session July 26-30 at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem. Reviews and reflections upon the annual session by attendees and program participants are described as "spirit-filled," "one of the best," and "successful."

The annual session was inaugurated on Sunday evening, July 26, with a Holy Communion Worship Service held at the host church, Shiloh Baptist Church, where the Reverend Dr. Paul Lowe serves as pastor and host. This service of worship set the tone for the entire conference. Throughout the week and in every aspect of the program, it was quite noticeable that the Lord was with us through every prayer, every spoken word, and every song.

The session provided quality teaching, anointed preaching, and an atmosphere for koinonia, theological reflections, and community building. One highlight of the annual session is the Monday evening banquet. This year our speaker was Paulette McClain Moore, President of the Women's Auxiliary, Tennessee Regular BM&E State Convention, who delivered a dynamic and challenging word. She was no nonsense in her delivery, which raised the attention level of all in attendance and at times demanded rousing applause. She contributed greatly to the success of the banquet.

At least three transitional events took place during the annual session that are noteworthy. On Monday

Dr. Priscilla Brodie

evening during the banquet, Dr. Priscilla Brodie, who retired after having served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer for thirty years, was recognized and honored with expressions of gratitude and love gifts from individuals across North Carolina. The celebration began with a brief walk down memory lane through video production depicting Dr. Brodie from her early years with the convention. Dr. Brodie was moved to tears both during the presentations and during her remarks. As always, she concluded her remarks with her signature quote: "To God be the glory." Congratulations to Dr. Brodie in her retirement!

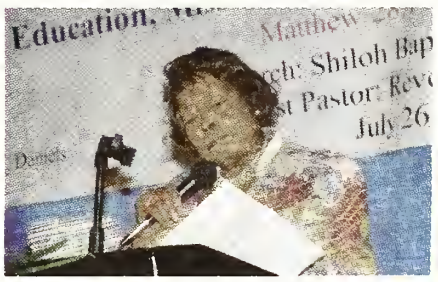
Dr. Linda Bryan and Dr. Bronnie Daniels

Secondly, Dr. Bronnie H. Daniels, who has served as our President for the last four years, ended her tenure with a stirring message on that Wednesday, followed by moments of recognition, gifts, and expressions of gratitude for her excellent service across the state and beyond. Dr. Daniels launched her tenure under the theme "Stand on His Promises," which has carried the convention for the last four years. Under her leadership, the assemblies were initiated as a means for the board to go where the people are and to hear what the people have to say. Thank you, Dr. Daniels, for your contributions to the history of the Woman's Convention.

Thirdly, on that Thursday, new officers were named and installed to serve the convention for the next four years. The new President of the Woman's Convention is Dr. Audrey Battle from Rocky Mount, who had served previously as First Vice President. She is a retired educator who brings an array of experiences to the table and is ready to lead the convention into a new season of service to North Carolina. She informs me that she is excited about the journey and is ready to step into her role as President.

I solicit your prayers on behalf of these three ladies as they have entered a period of transition.

I want to thank the board and the



Dr. Audrey Battle

office staff for a job well done as we worked together in planning, implementing, and delivering a successful annual session. And last but certainly not least, I want to thank you, our supporters and encouragers for your prayers and strong participation. We look forward to having you join us again next year for what promises to be another great conference.

Lott Carey Continues to Provide Aid After Katrina

By Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D.

Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast four years ago. I left New Orleans just a few days before landfall and within a few days following, Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention was communicating throughout our network to help move supplies to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. You were generous beyond belief.

Our primary focus, however, was not on the immediate relief efforts. We concentrated on "helping people rise again." As a result of your generosity, we collaborated in the region to provide pastoral care ministry, social service support, mental health counseling, and child development programs in six cities in the region for a period of 16 months.

Our collaborations resulted in numerous opportunities to partner with other funding organizations that have produced more impact than we can accurately quantify. A generous $1 million gift from Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey, enabled us to build on the previous work by nurturing families, churches, and communities. We have, and continue to, provide scholarships to adults for skills training

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World Council of Churches Makes New Call for Peace in Darfur

From Press Release

The World Council of Churches Central Committee again took up the issue of Sudan at meetings recently in Geneva, issuing a statement on the Darfur crisis in the context of Sudan. The statement says since early 2003 "the conflict in Darfur has unleashed an overwhelming wave of violence resulting in the death of hundreds of thousands of civilians and an immense humanitarian crisis."

The central committee and its executive committee have spoken several times previously on Sudan and the conflict in the nation's Darfur region. In September 2006, the central committee requested that staff study whether "the use of the term genocide with regard to the crisis in Darfur is appropriate in light of the internationally agreed conventions on this issue, and to offer counsel to the churches."

A progress report on that study was attached to this latest statement as background, referring to the conflict in Darfur as a moral challenge for the international community. The new statement adopted by central committee delegates on September 1 condemns the mass atrocities committed against innocent civilians in Darfur. It further urges the government of Sudan to assume full responsibility for the protection

of its citizens regardless of ethnicity or other affiliation and to allow uninterrupted humanitarian assistance to reach all suffering people in Darfur.

It also appeals to the government of Sudan to honor all statements and agreements it has signed, most notably the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in 2005 in the country's South. It urges the nations of Africa and the international community to continue to support the peace process through constructive dialogue with all parties involved in the conflict.

The statement goes on to express appreciation for the assistance provided by the United Nations/African Union (UNAMID) peacekeeping force in Darfur and acknowledges the "significant role of the churches in Sudan in promoting interreligious dialogue and advocating for peace, justice, reconciliation, and respect for the dignity and well being of all the people of Sudan."

It ends by encouraging Christians everywhere to pray for an end to the hostilities in Darfur and for a lasting peace in Sudan, with the following prayer:

Compassionate God, who through the death of your Son on the cross, suffers alongside wounded humanity. We remember communities and peoples around the world who have been victims of genocide and mass crimes against humanity. (The names of specific communities and peoples could be inserted here.) Comfort those who mourn. Sustain those who live with the scars of violence. Bless all who work for truth, reconciliation, and the healing of memories. In your name we pray.

For full text of the statement, visit www.oikoumene.org/?id=7166, and for more information on the Central Committee meeting go to www.oikoumene.org/cc2009.

New Study Shows How the Faith of African-Americans Has Changed

From The Barna Group
www.barna.org

From the earliest days of America's history, a deep-rooted spirituality has been one of the hallmarks of the black population in the country. A new study released by The Barna Group underscores that the passage of time has not diminished the importance of faith in the lives of African-Americans. The study examined the religious beliefs and behaviors of the black population, today and in comparison to 15 years ago, as well as comparing the faith of blacks to that of the U.S. population as a whole.

The research explored 12 religious beliefs. The current data indicates that among the four largest ethnic groups in the nation—whites, blacks, Hispanics, and Asians—blacks had the highest score on 10 of the 12 belief indicators. Survey respondents reacted to nine statements regarding faith. Blacks were highest among the four ethnic groups in relation to eight of those nine statements. (See the chart on this page for a breakdown of responses.) The only faith statement for which the African-American response was similar to that of the U.S. average was "if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in Heaven."

There were three other belief oriented results in the survey, and African-Americans were the highest ethnic group on two of those three. Specifically, blacks were the group most likely to be born again Christians (59 percent compared to a national average of 46 percent) and were the ethnic segment most likely to consider themselves to be Christian (92 percent did so, versus 85 percent nationally). However, they were no more likely than average to qualify as evangelical Christians.

The Barna study examined 13 religious behaviors. Again demonstrating their spiritual uniqueness, African-Americans ranked highest among the four ethnic groups on eight of those 13 indicators and lowest on two of them. In all, blacks differed significantly from the national average on nine of the behaviors.

Compared to the other three ethnic groups, blacks emerged as the most likely to engage in each of five church-related activities in a typical week (attending church services, participating in a small group, attending a Sunday school class, praying, and reading the Bible). They were also the most likely to have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life and to have an "active faith" (i.e., attend church services, pray to God, and read from the Bible during the week). They also had the lowest proportion of unchurched adults and were the ethnic group least likely to be Catholic.

Belief	U.S.	Blacks	Whites	
the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches	49%	66%	46%	*
have personal responsibility to tell others your religious beliefs	34	46	32	*
your religious faith is very important in your life	72	86	70	*
Satan/devil is not a living being but is a symbol of evil	39	46	38	*
when He lived on earth, Jesus Christ did not commit sins	43	54	42	*
single, most important purpose of your life is to love God with all your heart, mind, strength and soul	66	85	63	*
God is the all-powerful, all-knowing, perfect creator of the universe who rules the world today	70	84	69	**
your highest priority in your life these days is your faith	11	18	11	***
number of persons interviewed	**92321272**		**6038**	

* = answered "strongly agree" with the statement posed
** = chose this description from several options
*** = gave this response (i.e., "faith") without prompting or options to choose from
(Source: The Barna Group, Ventura, CA)

Religious behaviors and choices among blacks that occur at levels equivalent to the national average are being "absolutely committed to the Christian faith" and having shared one's faith in Christ with others during the past year.

The Barna study compared current statistics for African-American faith with that measured 15 years ago and found substantial change during that period. Six of seven measures of belief had changed significantly. Blacks today are more likely than they were in the early 1990s to believe that the principles taught in the Bible are totally accurate; to say that their religious faith is very important in their life; to have a biblically orthodox understanding of the nature of God; and to be born again. They are also less likely to strongly affirm that Satan is symbolic, not real; and to contend that a good person can earn his/her way into Heaven. The measure that had not changed was the sense of personal responsibility to discuss their beliefs with others.

The African-American population is presently about 15 percent of the national population. Other research conducted by Barna has indicated that spirituality is generally a more central element in the lives of blacks than in the lives of people from other ethnic groups. That spiritual emphasis accounts for some of the higher levels of religious activity and the more biblically oriented beliefs registered within the black community.

While the beliefs and behaviors of America's white population have changed little since the early 1990's, the new research underscored that the faith of African-Americans is dynamic, gen-

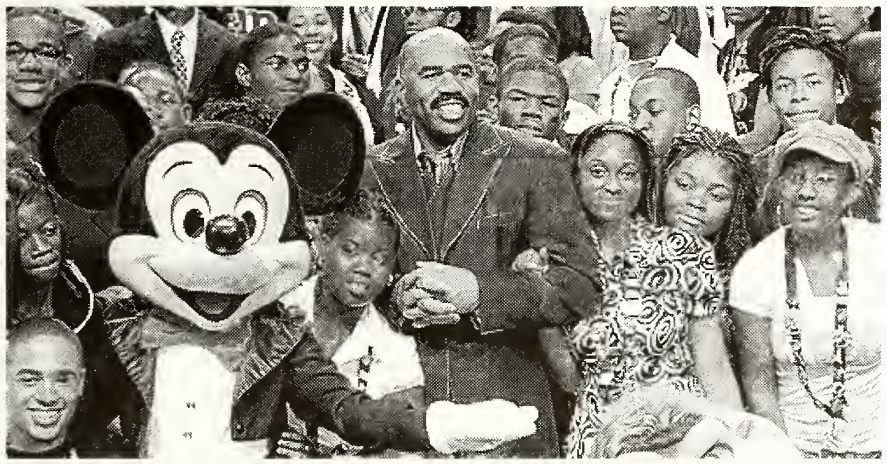
Continued on Page 7

Nominations Underway for Disney's Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey

From Press Release

Do you know a high school student who could use some encouragement in his or her life or a push of excitement toward achieving goals? Disney's Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey, an event created to inspire and enrich high school students, has started accepting nominations for the class of 2010. Until October 2, parents, teachers, family, and friends can nominate high school students for the highly successful event, which will return to Walt Disney World Resort February 11-14, 2010. Students can also nominate themselves.

One hundred teens from across the country with big dreams and aspirations will be selected to pack their bags—and their dreams—and head to Walt Disney World Resort, where they will learn about careers in everything from culinary arts to animation, set design and show production to the business of sports and more. For the 2009 academy, eight of the 100 students chosen were from North Carolina.



Young dreamers, who must be enrolled in high school for the 2009-10 term, can be nominated by anyone. Although a high GPA is not required, students must exhibit a desire to learn, perhaps needing only additional motivational support to excel. Nomination forms can be found at www.steveharvey.com/disneysdreamersacademy.

A select panel of judges including national radio personality Steve Harvey, community leaders, and Disney representatives will choose the 100 finalists. The Disney's Dreamers Academy class of 2010 will be announced this November. During the academy, students will participate in workshops with Disney cast members and executives, hear inspira-

Continued on Page 8

The "Neighborhood Church Coalition" is helping Churches obtain loans and open Credit Unions!

-Over 4,000 churches, in 38 states with over 4,000,000 members-

The NCC is days away from obtaining its Federal Charter to open credit unions for churches anywhere in the nation.

Here are some benefits of becoming a member of the NCC:

- Assistance in establishing a credit union at your church or in your city
- Church loans at below market value rates with "modified" requirements
- Home loans for members, even if they have "blemished" credit
- Access to a financial team to assist churches, pastors and members in improving their financial situation

Mr. William B.Thompson
Financial Strategist

Information calls are every Tuesday at 12 noon EST 605-475-6900 pin 100101#
For information, email us at:
Credit Union President - FloranceMcKoy@bellsouth.net
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First Vice President

Recognizing the Power God Gives Us

By Rev. Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D. Min.
First Vice President GBSC

Dr. Nilous **Avery, II**

"To all (in the General Baptist family) who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:7). As we press on with the awesome God-ordained assignment "to convince the unconvinced to be convinced through education, missions, and fellowship," I continually pause to thank God for all of you, "because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Romans 1:8b).

Our storied convention does indeed stand on the threshold of abundant blessings through the power of God and divine provisions through God's people. Our mountaintop view of promised-land possessions must not result in a stagnant spirituality. God has promised empowerment for those who are faithful. General Baptists, we can experience and express the power that is ours in Jesus the Christ.

Power is a word that is used often in our world. We're familiar with power plays, power dunks, and power formations in athletics. We eat power bars for energy while on the go. We install power locks, power brakes, power windows, power engines, etc. in our automobiles. We use power points in professional presentations. Our churches apply the word power to add punch to our ecclesiastical gatherings.

How does the word power apply to our spiritual lives? In the New Testament, there are two forms of the word power:

-Dunamis: the ability, the force, the energy to do or act. It literally means powered by power, transforming power. The focus of this word is the transformation (change) that comes in order to glow, grow, and go when this power is present (see Acts 1:8).

-Kratos: the power that is able to overcome resistance (see Hebrews 2:14). This also refers to overcoming the power of death. This word indicates that God's glorious might is needed for growth as a result of the many challenges that confront our spiritual advancement.

In others words, Christ's power must become tangible and visible in our lives in order for us to glow, grow, and go in the will, witness, and work of Almighty God!

God provides us with power to know (Ephesians 1:17-20; 3:18-19), power to walk (Colossians 1:11), and power to serve (2 Thessalonians 1:11). We're called to be fruit-bearers of God through Jesus the Christ. True fruit-bearers possess inward divine power that transforms lives and overcomes obstacles to ministry.

Our opportunity to be witnesses of God's transforming power is available through our convention's objectives, specifically State Missions. Without State Missions, our ability to be agents of transformation is limited. Without your support, there is no State Missions! Your constant prayers and financial support are tangible proof that God's power transforms lives and overcomes obstacles. My beloved General Baptist family, we are in a position to impact our world like never before. Accept the challenge today.

I'm asking all pastors, laity, churches, moderators, associations, and those who love God to prayerfully and generously build up State Missions by fulfilling the following power points:

1) Increase your financial support of State Missions monthly.

2) Subscribe, renew subscriptions, and enlist others to subscribe to The Baptist Informer.

3) Pledge to diligently, faithfully, and generously support your General Baptist State Convention's leaders, auxiliaries, and ongoing efforts to promote Kingdom Building through missions.

Send your prayers up and your financial support in for State Missions today! I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen.

Rev. Avery can be reached 704-637-0954 or averyrevkin@aol.com.

Third Vice President

The Aging Church

By Rev. Dr. Ricky L. Banks
Third Vice President GBSC

Rev. Ricky **Banks**

The U.S. Census Bureau's 1990 report is a wake up call for the church. In 1990, adults 65 years old or older made up 4 percent of the population; Americans 85 and older numbered 3.1 million. A child born in 1900 could expect to live to be around 50 years of age. Since 1900, the number of Americans 65 or older has increased 10 times and the percentage of the population has tripled. They now represent 12.6 percent of the U.S. population, or about one in every eight Americans.

A child born in 1990 can expect to live 75 years. The 85-plus age group had the largest percentage increase of all groups—25 times larger than this age group in 1900. By 2050, their number will approach 18 million, almost 5 percent of the population. Some states will experience 100 percent growth in senior adult population between 1995 and 2020. Before 1996, the senior adult segment of this country's population exhibited slow, steady growth. When baby boomers started turning 50 in 1996, growth began to escalate.

As a result of aging boomers, it is predicted that by the year 2030 persons 65 and older will represent 21.8 percent of the U.S. population. The most rapid increase in numbers is expected between the year 2010 and 2030 when the last of the baby boomer generation reaches age 65. By 2025, the 65-plus population will outnumber teenagers by two to one. What a shift this will be from the youth focused culture of the 1990s.

By 2040, life expectancy will increase to age 86 for men and 91 for women. By 2050, the percentage of the U.S. population over the age of 65 will reach 22 percent. Entire communities and churches will consist of senior adults.

Stereotypes and myths about senior adults persist despite evidence to the contrary. The image of persons 65 and older as frail, hard of hearing, nearsighted, passive, and docile may characterize some seniors; but for the most part they are very alert, active, and eager to learn. They travel, volunteer, and lead independent lives with a measure of financial security unknown to previous generations. Instead of being cared for by family members, many in this age group are caregivers for adult children and grandchildren.

Older Americans are generally healthier and more independent than their predecessors. Only 5 percent live in long-term care facilities, while 67 percent live in family settings either in their own homes or with a relative. For today's seniors, these years are among their most creative and productive. They're concerned with maintaining a sense of meaning and purpose for their lives. A total of 81 percent of seniors 65 to 69 are homeowners, while 75 percent of those 75 and older own homes.

The attitude that senior adults are productive and valued leaders is very much a biblical concept. The fact that we're made in the image of God reveals our importance to God. (See Genesis 1:27). As we age we do not diminish in our worth to God or to mankind. The Bible speaks clearly to five beliefs about aging:

-Aging has a purpose and is a normal part of life. "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven: a time to be born and a time to die" (Eccl. 3:1-2).

-Seniors deserve our honor, respect, and recognition. "Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with a promise that it may be well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth" (Ephesians 6:2-3).

-Aging provides experience, knowledge, and wisdom, which serve as examples of a worthy life. "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding? (Job 12:12).

-Senior adults should mentor younger adults. "Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you" (Deut. 32:7).

-God uses people of all ages. "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams" (Acts 2:17).

We must challenge seniors with a kingdom vision of extending the gospel to the unreached neighborhood, community, nation, and world.

Rev. Banks can be reached at 252-335-5003 or pastorrickybanks@yahoo.com.

Answering the Call

By Jarvis Holliday

The Reverend Dr. Linda W. Bryan is approaching the six-month mark as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina. She serves as associate minister at Christian Faith Baptist Church in Raleigh and is the former academic dean and professor of mission and ministry at Shaw University Divinity School. Dr. Bryan is working on a book addressing the subject of call to ministry. She was recently awarded the NAACP Centennial Celebration Award for Outstanding Achievement in Religious Affairs. I recently spoke with her regarding the challenges of her new role. She says people now more than ever are in need of missions—and she's excited to answer the call.

Dr. Linda **Bryan**

How has your tenure in your new role been so far?

The Woman's Convention is a very active ministry moving about with its various activities all over the state and is therefore quite busy. As with any new role, the work has been challenging as well as stimulating and rewarding. We have just celebrated our 125th Annual Session in Winston-Salem and I am told by many in attendance, including board members, that it was one of the best annual sessions we have had. That gives me great hope for future projects. I am standing on the shoulders of one, Dr. Priscilla Brodie, who has held the reins and led this organization for thirty years. That is a long time. As the board and I work together, my hope is that we can build on the foundation that has been laid so that we can more readily meet the needs of our people in these times in which we are living.

"The cry right now is for action." Dr. Bryan says

How do you plan to accomplish that?

I think we need to ask ourselves the question, "what does it mean to do missions?" We may need to redefine missions and enter dialogue about what it means to the church as an institution and to the church individually. Historically, what is thought to be missions is narrowly defined as visiting the sick and carrying meals to the neighbors by little ladies in white dresses. While those are certainly important mission efforts, I believe the church is challenged to think of missions from a more global perspective, understanding that every Christian has been called to be a missionary. When we responded to God's call to join the body of Christ, in essence, we responded to an invitation to the mission field. So to deny oneself as being a missionary is to reject the call of God.

You mentioned "these times in which we are living." Can you elaborate?

In my opinion, we're living in what the scriptures refer to as 'perilous times.' Socially, economically, educationally, and politically, these are crucial times requiring some crucial and perhaps radical responses from God's people. People are looking for answers and they don't know where to go. I was listening to a radio program not too long ago when I heard the announcer share a call he received from a young woman whose troubles were so extreme that she was losing trust in God. She asked the announcer to pray for her that she not lose hope in God. Her troubles were overwhelming. That was just one person who confessed, but there are many others who are in some very stressful circumstances. Another example is a woman who found her way into our office looking for help because she had no money to pay her rent. Our call is more than theoretical but requires praxis. The cry right now is for action.

Describe what you see the Woman's Convention role being?

The Woman's Convention motto is 'Christ in Every Home.' The convention seeks to provide the means by which this motto can be achieved through training, education, prayer, fellowship, community, and provision. The Woman's Convention supports six objectives: 1) Shaw University, 2) Shaw University Divinity School, 3) foreign missions, 4) state missions, 5) Central Children's Home, and 6) J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. However, to describe the role of the Woman's Convention has to be an ongoing discussion as the seasons and cries for our services change.

Is there anything in particular at the top of your agenda?

Administratively, a number one priority for me is to work with the board to build community amongst our people. Missionally, a number one priority is refurbishing the J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly so that our children can return to camp next summer in our own facilities.

Travel Team to Be Organized for Baptist World Congress

From Staff Reports

In 1609, John Smyth and Thomas Helwys established the first Baptist congregation in Amsterdam. From that time to this, we have become a robust global missional community (see www.bwanet.org). Baptists from around the world will gather for the 20th Baptist World Congress July 28 through August 1, 2010 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention will be organizing a travel team should you desire to attend.

The Baptist World Congress program will feature:

-Inspirational evening plenary sessions featuring lively celebrations, Bible teaching, moving testimonies, and musical contributions from the worldwide Baptist family.
-Morning community Bible studies that will break-up into smaller groups for more in-depth discussions.
-Afternoon workshops, focus groups, seminars, and fringe festivals.
-An exhibition hall introducing resources and networking of ministries.
-Congress arts program contributing music for meditation from around the world, creative drama, art exhibition, and visual displays of human rights and religious freedom concerns.
-Worship led by gifted spiritual leaders with musical and other artistic presentations from around the world.
-Children's program for all who are under 11 years old.
-Youth track offered alongside the adult program for those 12 years and older.

For more info on the Baptist World Congress, visit www.bwacongress2010.org. If you'd like to learn more about the travel team being organized by Lott Carey, contact Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley at 202-543-3200 or degoatley@aol.com.

Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

A Celebration of Ministry

The Reverend Dr. Robert E. Lee McGowens, Sr. & Lady Terry McGowens

Congratulations to
Pastor Robert E. Lee and Lady Terry McGowens
As they celebrated the
4th Pastoral Anniversary
&
Pastor Robert E. Lee McGowens, Sr.
28th Year in the Ministry

Special Guests Included:

Dr. Charles E. Rogers & Salem Missionary Baptist Church Family

Dr. Nathan E. Scovens & Galilee Missionary Baptist Church Family

Pastor Brenda Caldwell & Greater Temple Baptist Church Family

Dr. Daniel K. McCowan & Maxwell Baptist Church Family

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International Day of Prayer for Peace to Be Held Sept. 21

From Press Release

Each year, as part of the International Day of Prayer for Peace, more individuals, groups, congregations, and communities throughout the world are recognizing the significance of committing to One Day of Peace through prayer, meditation, and other forms of spiritual observance. The North Carolina Council of Churches endorses and promotes this observance.

The International Day of Prayer for Peace offers an opportunity for churches, other faith communities, and interfaith organizations in all places to pray and act together to nurture lasting peace in the hearts of people, in families, in neighborhoods and societies. Faith communities worldwide are invited to pray together for peace on Monday, September 21.

The idea was conceived in 2004 during a meeting between WCC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia and United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, and it coincides with the United Nations International Day of Peace. An ever-expanding number of people worldwide have committed to this annual effort to work with other like-minded individuals and groups for an International Day of Peace Vigil. The vigil encourages worldwide, 24-hour spiritual observations for peace and nonviolence on September 21, in every house of worship and place of spiritual practice, by all religious and spiritually based groups and individuals, and by all who seek peace in the world.

Here's how you can get involved:

-Register your commitment and find ecumenical and interfaith inspiration at the International Day of Peace Vigil website: www.idpvigil.com

-Host an evening service and invite pastors from other churches to help prepare it.

-Host a 24-hour vigil of continual praying for peace, with individuals rotating in at different times.

-Have volunteers from the church commissioned to work for peace that entire week.

-Sponsor a prayer breakfast about violence and peace in your town.

-Hold a prayer vigil about overcoming violence in a public park.

-Meet a member from another church and go together to pray with your congressional representative about both problems of violence and God's vision of shalom.

-Be ecumenical or interfaith—invite congregations of other traditions and races to participate.

-Focus on particular areas of conflict and violence to pray for: Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Honduras, as well as local issues and needs such as domestic abuse and gun violence.

Study Shows, from Page 2

erally moving in a direction that is more aligned with conservative biblical teachings.

This report is based upon tele-

phone interviews conducted by The Barna Group among nine nationwide random samples of adults. In the course of the 9,232 interviews conducted, each respondent was asked if they considered themselves to be black or African-American. These surveys were conducted between January 2007 and November 2008. In total, there were 1,272 adults in the African-American category.

The Barna Group, Ltd. (which includes its research division, The Barna Research Group) is a private, non-partisan, for-profit organization that conducts primary research on a wide range of issues and products, produces resources pertaining to cultural change, leadership and spiritual development, and facilitates the healthy spiritual growth of leaders, children, families, and Christian ministries. Located in Ventura, California, Barna has been conducting and analyzing primary research to understand cultural trends related to values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors since 1984.

Carnival

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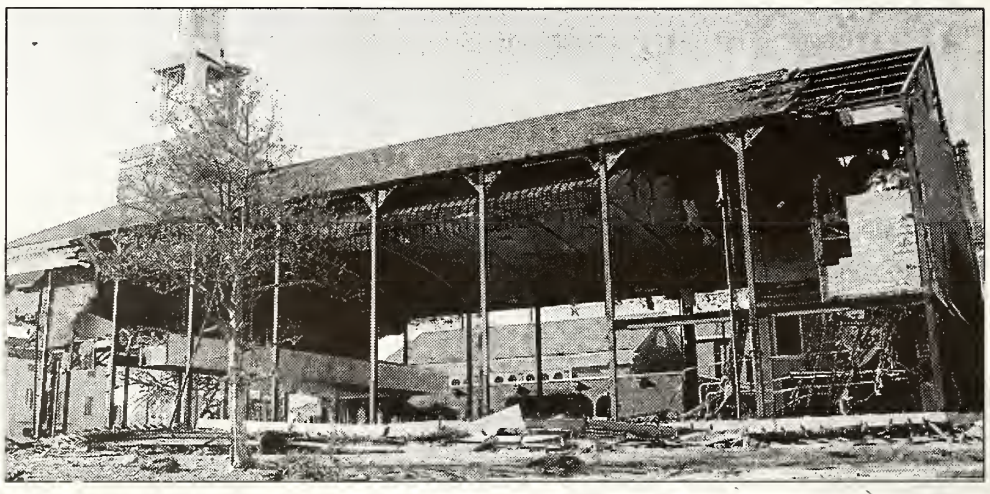
Disney's Dreamers Academy
from Page 3

tional stories from entertainment celebrities and professional athletes, and enjoy the Disney theme parks—where they can see, first-hand, the results of people who turned their dreams into careers as "Disney dreamers."

During the 2009 Disney's Dreamers Academy, some of the guest speakers were Chef Jeff Henderson, National Football League Hall of Famer Kellen Winslow, pop/R&B recording artists Fantasia and Keyshia Cole, ESPN commentator Stephen A. Smith and, of course, Steve Harvey. Harvey said Disney's Dreamers Academy "is about inspiring our young people who oftentimes don't have the chance to be exposed to a variety of job skills and job opportunities and meet with people in the fields they're interested in. We want to give our young achievers the tools to become overachievers—to make their dreams a reality."

For more details, visit www.steveharvey.com/disneysdreamersacademy.



Aid after Katrina, *from Page 1*

nities to partner with other funding organizations that have produced more impact than we can accurately quantify. A generous $1 million gift from Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey, enabled us to build on the previous work by nurturing families, churches, and communities. We have, and continue to, provide scholarships to adults for skills training and college degrees. We arranged 10 months of coaching for pastors in the region and gave nearly $400,000 in ministry grants (one project is the development of a 20-acre site that will serve as a Christian camp and operational command center for future hurricanes in Louisiana).

Our partners have launched more than 200 housing units and secured nearly 100 acres for new housing development. I was on the phone this week moving toward closure for a new skills training program that will equip unemployed and discouraged workers for high-paying construction jobs in the region. We're also working on raising funds to scholarship people to become certified nursing assistants. There are many job opportunities in this health care profession in the region.

Some plant. Some water. God gives the increase.

Most people turned away from the Gulf Coast within weeks or months after the hurricane. Lott Carey has stayed the course. We continue to invest and collaborate to find new resources in "helping people rise again." You can see newsletter updates at our website to rejoice in your work and to pray for more impact. Visit www.lottcarey.org/hurricane-response.html.

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EIGHTH PAGE	$ 150.00	$ 375.00	$ 600.00	$ 900.00

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Lilly Named Best Company for Blacks in Technology

From Press Release

Eli Lilly and Company has been given the Epsilon Star of Highest Magnitude Award and has been named the best company for blacks in technology by the Black Data Processing Associates (BDPA) and WorkplaceDiversity.com. The Epsilon Award is given annually to the top company in the nation that promotes a workplace and environment that supports the advancement of African-Americans in the information technology industry.

Lilly received the Epsilon Award at BDPA's annual national conference, which was held in Raleigh. The first pharmaceutical company to win top honors, this was the fourth consecutive year Lilly was listed as one of the top companies for blacks in technology. According to BDPA, a company must attract and recruit the most talented employees, clients, and customers as well as realize positive financial results to be considered for this award. Eligible companies also submit a survey related to workforce and supplier diversity within the organization.

Lilly is a leading innovation-driven corporation that is developing a growing portfolio of pharmaceutical products. BDPA was founded in 1975 by Earl A. Pace Jr. and the late David Wimberly after the two met in Philadelphia to discuss their concerns about minorities in the data processing field. Today, BDPA is a global member-focused organization that serves the professional well-being of blacks in the IT industry.

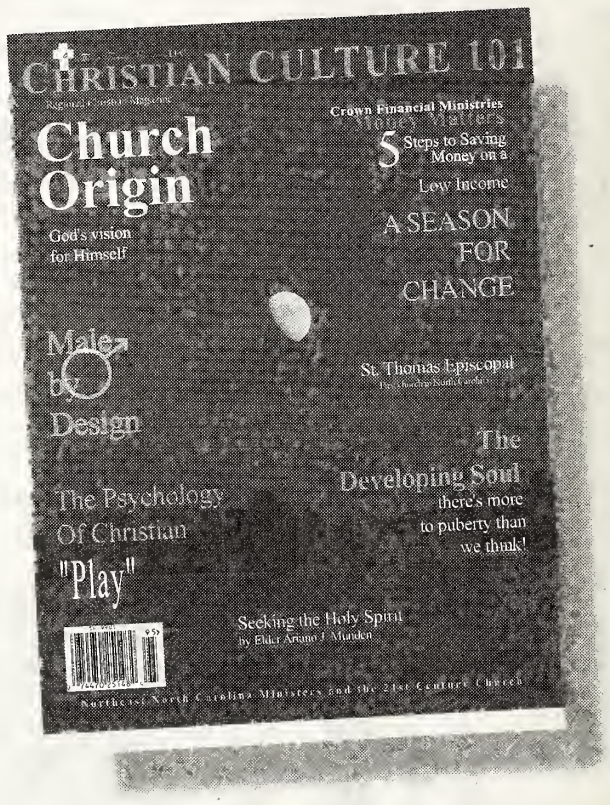
The Ninety-Third Annual Session
of the
Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress
of the Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association
was held July 21-23, 2009

Sister Mary E. Sharpe, President

Hosted by: Memorial Missionary Baptist Church,
Elizabeth City, North Carolina
Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Askew, Host Pastor

Theme: "To Convince the Unconvinced to be Convinced…
Through Education, Missions and Fellowship"

Dr. William M. Sawyer, Moderator, Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association



Thomas Family Ministries, LLC is a religious based publishing company specializing in magazine publication and graphic design. Our first publication is Christian Culture 101 magazine. For more information or questions, email the president at audreythomas@cox.net or thomasfamilyministries@cox.net

Director, DeiVision of Music and Arts

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
Charlotte, NC

The applicant must bring strong leadership, administrative and musical skills to support the experience of God through music. The Director will lead God's people to three worship services on Sunday by planning and managing a diverse music ministry; multiple choirs, vocal and instrumental ensembles and an orchestra. We are seeking an individual with a Masters Degree (music-related education preferred) and minimum five years experience. To learn more about Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and view a full job description, see our website at:

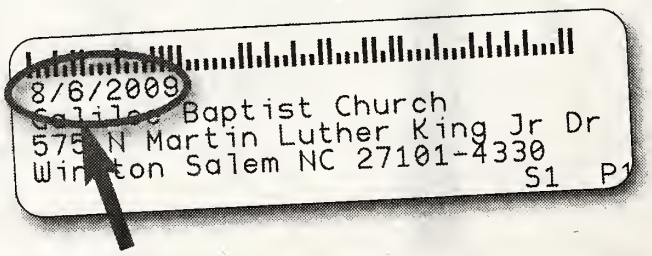
http://www.friendshipcharlotte.org/aboutus/employment

In the event of technological challenges,
please contact **Valerie Wade at 704-391-6632.**

Deadline for application submission is October 15, 2009.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Your subscription expiration date will be listed on your mailing label. Please make a note of this date so that you will know when it is time to renew your subscription. This is a monthly publication.



Director of Music

The Saint Hope Missionary Baptist Church seeks a part-time music director

Requirements:

- Strong Christian faith
- Comply with church policies
- Work with Pastor in planning church music for worship
- Ability to deal with people with tact and discretion
- Available for weekly rehearsals
- Able to play Organ/Keyboard/Piano
- Have knowledge of appropriate traditional, contemporary gospel and hymns
- The ability to teach a range of voice parts
- Be available for morning, evening and special services (funerals, visiting engagements, etc.)
- Provide references and pass background check

Any other duties specified by the Pastor

Mail Resume To:

Saint Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Attention: Ms. Doris Whitehead
7337 Church Bend Road, Spring Hope, NC 27882
Or Email: Sainthopembc@embarqumail.com

The Baptist Informer

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THEME: *"By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness..."* (II Corinthians 6:7)

BAPTIST Informer

Joel Gregory to Headline Annual Session

From Staff Reports

Dr. Joel C. Gregory will be the keynote preacher for the 142nd Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Dr. Gregory is the Professor of Preaching at George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University in Texas. He will preach on the night of Tuesday, October 27 during the annual session.

Among his recent speaking engagements, Dr. Gregory has spoken at national conferences, including his tenth year to speak at the E.K. Bailey International Conference on Expository Preaching, Dallas; The Jasper Williams Conference, Atlanta; The Mighty Men of Valor Conference, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; The Children's Defense Fund at the Alex Haley Farm in Tennessee; the National Baptist Convention meeting, Orlando; and the Iron Sharpens Iron Conference in Chicago. In the academy, he has spoken at Shaw University, Georgetown College, Hardin Simmons University, and Bethel Seminary.

Dr. Gregory will do a special in-service for preachers at the October session.

GBSC's 142nd Annual Session will be held at Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where Dr. Howard W. Parker Jr. is pastor. The convention will open on the afternoon of Monday, October 26 and will close on the evening of Wednesday, October 28 with the President's Address. Sycamore Hill is located in Greenville, North Carolina.

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Upcoming Events

30th Annual Family Mission Conference
Sponsored by the
Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of NC
September 26
9 a.m.
First Baptist Church-West
1801 Oaklawn Ave.,
Charlotte, NC
Rev. Dr. Ricky Woods, Host Pastor

142nd Annual Session of the General Baptist State Convention of NC
October 26-28
Greenville, NC
Important info on lodging: hotel reservation cut-off date is September 26. Baptist Headquarters has been able to negotiate special reduced rates at two hotels for persons attending the convention. The headquarters hotel is Best Western Suites of Greenville.
2310 NE Greenville Blvd.
252-752-2378
GBSC rate: $86.00 for singles and doubles

The alternate hotel is Microtel Inn and Suites University Medical Park.
450 Moye Blvd.
252-758-7282
GBSC rate: $59.00 for singles, $69.00 for doubles, and $79.00 for suites

Youth Evangelism Conference
Sponsored by the
Woman's Baptist Home
and Foreign Missionary
Convention of N.C.
November 7
9 a.m.
Warren County High School
149 Campus Rd., Hwy. 158
Warrenton, NC
Hosted by the Warren County
Missionary Union

10/30/2010
SE Baptist Theo Seminary
114 N Wingate St
Wake Forest NC 27587-2553
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